

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, and 21-30 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, and 21-30 stand rejected and Claims 1 and 9 are objected to Claims 1, 9, and 21 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and, as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

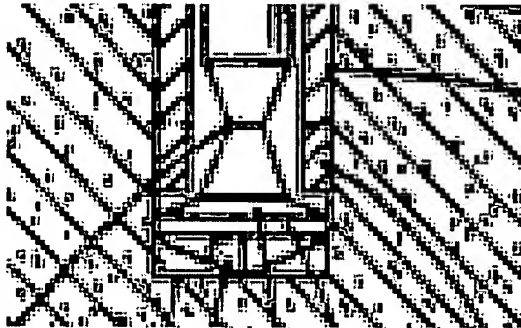
Claims 1 and 9 stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has amended these claims according to the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

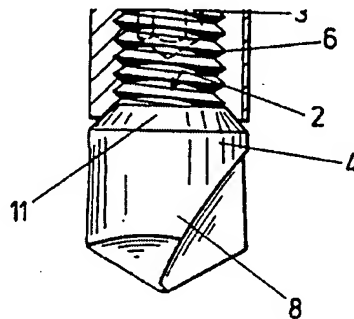
Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, and 21-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Palm (U.S. Pat. No. 5,183,357), or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Palm in view of Lacey (EP 0344005) or Dawdy (U.S. Pat. No. 3,671,061). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office in the non-final office action characterizes the Palm, Lacey or Dawdy references as teaching a rivet with a mandreled head having a shoulder portion which is substantially perpendicular to the mandrel. Applicant respectfully traverses this characterization.

As seen in the following figures, each of the cited references teaches an angled or curves shoulder portion. These surfaces are similar to the surface (28) cited as being prior art in the instant application. Both the Dawdy and Palm references teach the use of angled shoulder surfaces. This is opposed to the perpendicular shoulder surface as is claimed

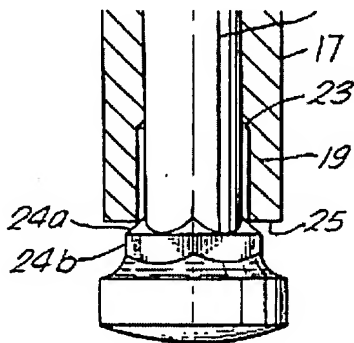


Dawdy



Palm

Similarly, the Lacey reference teaches a pair of surfaces, one angled 24a and a curved shouldered surface (adjacent to 24b).



Lacey

The examiner's attention is directed to Independent Claims 1 and 21. These claims have been amended to remove the "substantially" limitation, to clarify that the

shoulder surface is perpendicular to the mandrel. Further, claims 1 and 21 have been amended to include the limitation the rivet has "a mandrel having a substantially smooth stem extending through." Applicant respectfully submits that the Palm reference does not teach this limitation. Applicant further submits that each of the references teaches angled or curved shoulder surfaces, and as such, the references do not teach each of the limitations of the claims.

CONCLUSION

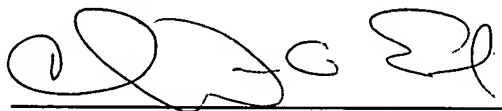
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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CAE/lf-s

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